

THE LOYAL ROAD TO PEACE,

AND THE

DISLOYAL ROAD TO RUIN.

President Lincoln on Democratic Strategy.

The Grand County (Wis.) Herald contains a very interesting letter from Hon. John T. Mills, Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, giving an account of a recent interview with Mr. Lincoln, with a report of the remarks of the latter in regard to the consequences which would follow the war policy urged by the friends of Gen. McClellan.

Judge Mills was accompanied by ex-Gov. Randall, of Wisconsin, who introduced him to the President, and whom he warmly thanks for his readiness to serve his friends from Wisconsin at the Capital. They found the President at the Soldiers' Retreat, a "building not imposing in size, half hidden in foliage, the grounds tastefully laid out."

The Governor asked a man in waiting if the President had arrived. "Yes," was the reply. We entered a neat plainly furnished room. A marble table was in the centre. Directly appeared from an adjoining apartment, a tall, gaunt-looking figure, shoulders inclined forward, his gait astride, rapid and shuffling, ample understandings, with large slippers, and Briarian arms, with a face radiant with intelligence and humor.

The Governor addressed him: "Mr. President, this is my friend and your friend, Mr. Mills from Wisconsin,"

"I am glad to see my friends from Wisconsin; they are the hearty friends of the Union."

"I could not leave the city, Mr. President, without hearing words of cheer from your own lips. Upon you, as the representative of the loyal people, depend as we believe, the existence of our government and the future of America." This introduced political topics.

"Mr. President," said Governor Randall, "why can't you seek seclusion, and play hermit for a fortnight? It would reinvigorate you."

"Aye," said the President, "two or three weeks would do me no good. I cannot fly from my thoughts—my solicitude for this great country follows me where

ever I go. I don't think it is personal vanity or ambition, though I am not free from those infirmities, but I cannot but feel that the weal or woe of this great nation will be decided in November. There is no programme offered by any wing of the Democratic party but that must result in the permanent destruction of the Union."

"But Mr. President, General McClellan is in favor of crushing out the rebellion by force. He will be the Chicago Candidate."

"Sir," said the President, "the slightest knowledge of Arithmetic will prove to any man that the rebel armies cannot be destroyed with Democratic strategy. It would sacrifice all the white men of the North to do it. There are now in the service of the United States near 200,000 able-bodied colored men, most of them under arms, defending and acquiring Union territory. The Democratic strategy demands that these forces be disbanded, and that the masters be conciliated by restoring them to slavery. The black men who now assist Union prisoners to escape, they are to be converted into our enemies in the vain hope of gaining the good will of their masters. We shall have to fight two nations instead of one."

"You cannot conciliate the South if you guarantee them ultimate success; and the experience of the present war proves their success is inevitable if you fling the compulsory labor of millions of black men into their side of the scale. Will you give our enemies such military advantages as insure success, and then depend on coaxing, flattery and concession to get them back into the Union? Abandon all the posts now garrisoned by black men, take 200,000 men from our side and put them in the battle-field or corn-field against us, and we would be compelled to abandon the war in three weeks."

"We have to hold territory in inclement and sickly places; where are the Democrats to do this? It was a free fight, and the field was open to the War Democrats to put down this Rebellion by fighting against both master and slave, long before the present policy was inaugurated."

"There have been men base enough to propose to me to return to slavery the black warriors of Port Hudson and Oulstee, and thus win the respect of the masters they fought. Should I do so, I should deserve to be damned in time and eternity. Come what will I will keep my faith with friend and foe. My enemies pretend I am now carrying on this war for the sole purpose of abolition. So long as I am president, it shall be carried on for the sole purpose of restoring the Union. But no human power can subdue this Rebellion without the use of the emancipation policy, and every other policy calculated to weaken the moral and physical forces of the Rebellion."

"Freedom has given us 200,000 men raised on Southern soil. It will give us more yet. Just so much it has subtracted from the enemy, and instead of alienating the South, there are now evidences of a fraternal feeling growing up between our men and the rank and file of the Rebel soldiers. Let my enemies prove to the country that the destruction of slavery is not necessary to a restoration of the Union. I will abide the issue."

I saw that the President was not a mere joker, but a man of deep convictions, of abiding faith in justice, truth and Providence. His voice was pleasant, his manner earnest and emphatic. As he warmed with his theme his mind grew to the magnitude of his body. I felt I was in the presence of the great guiding intellect of the age, and that those "huge Atlantean shoulders were fit to bear the weight of mightiest monarchies." His transparent honesty, republican simplicity, his gushing sympathy for those who offered their lives for their country, his utter forgetfulness of self in his concern for its welfare, could not but inspire me with confidence that he was Heaven's instrument to conduct His people through this sea of blood to a Canaan of peace and freedom.

J. T. MILLS.

JEFF. DAVIS and the Chicago Platform.

His Terms of Peace accepted by the Democracy.

J. P. BENJAMIN, the Rebel Secretary of State, in an official circular, dated Richmond, August 25, 1864, giving an account of the interview between Messrs Jacques and Gilmore and the Rebel President, says :

“He (President Davis) stated that if they were themselves unacquainted with the form of their own Government as to make such propositions, Mr. Lincoln ought to have known when giving them his views that it was out of the power of the Confederate Government to act on the subject of the domestic institutions of the several States, each State having exclusive jurisdiction on that point, still less to commit the decision of such a question to the vote a *foreign people*; that the *SEPARATION OF THE STATES* was an *ACCOMPLISHED FACT*; that he had no authority to receive proposals for negotiation, except by virtue of his office as *PRESIDENT of an INDEPENDENT CONFEDERACY*, and on *THIS BASIS ALONE* must proposals be made to him.

“I am very respectfully, your ob’t servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN,
Secretary of State.

This official announcement by Jeff. Davis, on the 24th of August, giving notice to all the world that “proposals for negotiation” must be made to him as “*PRESIDENT of an INDEPENDENT CONFEDERACY*,” was *accepted* six days afterwards, to wit. on the 30th of August, by the Democratic Convention at Chicago, in the following words :

“*Resolved*, That this Convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of *FAILURE* to restore the Union by the experiment of war, during which, under the pretense of a military necessity or war power higher than the Constitution, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part, and public liberty and private right alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired, justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that *IMMEDIATE EFFORTS* be made for a *CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES*, with a view to an ultimate convention of all the States, or other peaceable means, to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States.”

This admission that the attempt to restore the Union by War is a “failure,” was made by the Democratic leaders, with Jeff. Davis’ terms of Peace before them, which is equivalent to expressing a willingness to open “negotiations with him as the “*PRESIDENT of an INDEPENDENT CONFEDERACY*,” and a relinquishment of the Federal authority over the South.

The Albany Argus an Endorser of the Chicago Acceptance.

The *Albany Argus and Atlas* of September 5, 1864, in a leading editorial eulogizing the Chicago Platform, gave it in a condensed form, as follows :

“WAR has FAILED to restore the Union, let it GIVE WAY to NEGOTIATIONS ;” that is the PURPORT of the PLATFORM. “Let us have a CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, so that these NEGOTIATIONS may take place, and a Convention of the States, such as the Constitution contemplates, may follow.”

“THAT IS ALL THAT THERE IS IN THE PLATFORM.”

What the Soldiers think of this “Fire in the Rear.”

“So long as great national peril impends, while war exists, while great armies are marshalled in the field, and the Government is straining every nerve to avert a final catastrophe, common sense teaches that the conduct of FACTIOUS CITIZENS AT THE NORTH, whether combined IN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS OR AS INDIVIDUALS giving utterance to a fault-finding spirit, is MONSTROUS TREASON. The memories of many battle-fields, drenched with the blood of our noble slain, the sufferings and hardships of those who still survive, ready in defence of our beloved country to obey the soldier's summons to the deadly strife, plead trumpet-tongued AGAINST THE DEEP DAMNATION OF THESE NORTHERN TRAITORS.”—*Letter of 14th N. H. Regt. to the People at Home.*

“The Rebels of the South are leaning on the Northern Democracy for support ; and it is unquestionably true, that UNJUSTIFIABLE OPPOSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATION is giving AID and COMFORT to the ENEMY. In the dark hour of our Country's trial, there is but one road to success and PEACE, and that is, to be as firmly united for our Government as the Rebels are AGAINST IT.—Address of Indiana Army Officers—all Democrats—to their old party friends.

Which do you prefer, LINCOLN and JOHNSON, and the LOYAL ROAD TO PEACE, or McCLELLAN and PENDLETON and the DISLOYAL ROAD TO RUIN?